

REMARKS

The amendments to the specification and to Claims 3 and 4 seek to correct typographic errors.

The claimed invention is directed to a molding composition that contains polycarbonate resin, clay and carboxylic acid. The clay and acid are present in the composition in specified amounts and the clay is characterized in terms of the size and nano-sized dimensions of its platelets. The inventive composition features impact performance that is significantly better than a corresponding composition that includes no acid.

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(b) said to be unpatentable over Ross et al (U.S. Patent 6,610,770) in view of Beall et al (U.S. Patent 5,804,613).

Ross disclosed a composition having flame retardant properties that contain a polymer and organically modified clay.

The presently claimed polycarbonate is listed in Ross among the large number of polymers (column 5, lines 13 et seq.) and the modified clay is (column 4, lines 5 et seq.)

"an organic chemical/clay mixture prepared by the reaction of a smectite clay and one or more quaternary ammonium compounds and/or optionally one or more organic materials".

The presently claimed carboxylic acid is one of the referenced "organic materials" (Ross', column 8, lines 47 et seq.)

Carboxylic acid in the context of Ross is an optional component (column 8, line 47).

Beall relates to intercalated layered material, including nano-sized clay and disclosed carboxylic acid as intercalate material.

Unlike Ross where carboxylic acid is an optional the inventive composition requires the presence of this component. Attention is respectfully called to the working examples presented in the application where the results point to the critical effect that carboxylic acid has on the impact performance of the composition. The table below is an extract of the results tabulated in pages 8 and 9.

Example	2	6	3	7
Polycarbonate, wt%	97.5	97.25	95.	94.5
Clay, wt%	2.5	2.5	5	5
Acid, wt%	--	0.25	--	0.5
Impact Performance				
Notched Izod, ft-lb/in	1	3	0.6	2
Unnotched Izod, ft-lb	57.1	No break	13.5	No Break
Multi-axial impact, ft-lb	27.6	46.1	2.3	40.7
Fracture mode	shatter	Ductile	Brittle	Ductile

The results show that compositions containing polycarbonate and clay (Examples 2 and 3) exhibit inferior impact performance in comparison to corresponding compositions that additionally contain the claimed acid (Examples 6 and 7). Additional comparisons of Examples 4 and 5 to Examples 8 and 9 respectively point to similar advantages.

These results cannot reasonably be said to have been suggested by Ross and Beall and is not seen in any way to augment Ross in a presently meaningful manner.

Believing the above represent a complete response to the Office Action and that the application is in condition for allowance, Applicants request the earliest issuance of an indication to this effect.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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